

# **System Configuration Team (SCT)**

## **Reasonable & Prudent Measure #26 Meeting Notes November 26, 2002**

### ***Greetings and Introductions.***

The November 26, 2002 meeting of the System Configuration Team was held at the National Marine Fisheries Service offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was chaired by Bill Hevlin of NMFS and facilitated by Richard Forester. The agenda and a list of attendees for the meeting are attached as Enclosures A and B. Hevlin read a round of introductions, a review of the agenda and the notes from the August 22 SCT meeting.

The following is a distillation (not a verbatim transcript) of items discussed at the meeting, together with actions taken on those items. Please note that some enclosures referenced may be too lengthy to routinely include with the meeting notes; copies of all enclosures referred to in the minutes are available upon request from Kathy Ceballos of NMFS at 503/230-5420.

### ***1. FFDRWG Update.***

Rock Peters reviewed the recent efforts of the Portland District Fish Facilities Design Review Work Group (FFDRWG). He touched on the following major topics:

- B2 Corner collector: construction is ongoing and ahead of schedule.
- Bonneville JBS follow-on: There is a flume ovality issue; hydraulic analysis shows that there may be several small jumps in the pipe. Pipe ovality will be re-evaluated during the December in-water work window.
- B2 FGE: Failure of the existing VBS is due to debris loading on the screen. Need a new VBS design that will include a screen cleaner; Corps to provide new cost estimate soon. Agencies concurred to move out on VBS design asap.
- Bonneville survival and FPE and flow deflectors: data collection went well and analysis is underway; FFDRWG agreed that the current deflector configuration is good for now. Testing of Hi-Z was delayed for two weeks due to flow/tailwater constraints; summer testing is scheduled for August 19.
- The Dalles survival and FPE: testing of fall direct survival is ongoing; predation rates were very high in August. Need to schedule a test for next spring.

- The Dalles surface guidance improvement device (SGID): hydroacoustic report is now available; there was a meeting yesterday to discuss future direction at The Dalles.
- The Dalles adult collection channel dewatering: the contract is underway and going well; in-water work window starts next week. There may be a need for a two-week extension to that window.
- The Dalles powerhouse rehab: Unit 3 painting has been delayed to FY'03 due to funding concerns; Unit 1 will also be delayed to accommodate juvenile passage at the sluiceway.
- John Day FPE/Survival: Flows this season have not allowed for following test blocks for summer testing; may need to repeat test in the summer of '03.
- John Day ESBS: A handout is available summarizing preliminary FGE results; they were similar to previous years for both spring and summer. Project personnel have observed some failure of the screen panels (small holes due to vibration); the Corps needs to evaluate a method to resolve that problem and get run timing on screens to ensure reliability in '03.
- John Day RSW: agencies suggested moving forward with design of a smaller-volume RSW; there was agreement to defer any additional studies related to large-volume RSW in comparison to skeleton bays surface collection concepts. COE will set up a meeting in December to discuss the future direction of this project.
- John Day south shore fish jumping: Contract awarded in October for completion in March '03; there was FFDRWG concurrence that this contract should be awarded and completed asap.
- Adult studies
- Adult PIT: Ice Harbor, Lower Granite identified as the highest priorities for work in '03; Bonneville is still a priority, but action there will depend on this year's efficiency information.
- Full-flow PIT: some work has been suggested at John Day to monitor vibration and noise
- Hi-Q PIT: task force meeting just completed; B2 corner collector targeted as well as spillway for future information needs.
- Next Portland District FFDRWG meeting: January 7.

Peters noted that a CD-ROM summarizing all of the study presentations made for FY'03 will be made available soon by the Corps; he cautioned that all of this data is preliminary, and not for citation.

Marvin Shutters then briefed the group on some of the construction items ongoing at the Corps' Walla Walla District projects:

- Ice Harbor juvenile full-flow PIT detection: construction has not yet begun because of the late decision to do this project. May want to begin designing the full-flow PIT detector at Lower Monumental as well.
- McNary modernization: they are redesigning the VBS and hope to have a prototype installed at the project next summer, with a cleaning system. A trip to WES to look at the design is planned for January; a biological test using subyearling chinook is also planned for next summer.
- Adult PIT detection: Shutters reported that the fish ladder PIT detector construction at Ice

- Harbor and Lower Granite is on schedule.
- Lower Monumental spillway repair: construction is underway and should be completed in time for the spring '03 outmigration.
- Little Goose flow deflectors: modeling for this project is ongoing; construction is expected to take one year.

Shutters added that a meeting to discuss the Lower Granite RSW study design, passage study designs for Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental and McNary, Lower Snake decision analysis, Ice Harbor fast-track RSW has been scheduled for December 10-11; all SCT participants are invited to attend.

## ***2. SRWG Update.***

As per a request at the last SCT meeting, Peters distributed a handout summarizing the status of all of the Portland District studies currently under consideration by the Studies Review Work Group for FY'03 (Enclosure C). The group devoted a brief discussion to this information, offering a few clarifying questions and comments; please refer to Enclosure C for details. Peters added that he expects the study proposals to begin trickling in next week.

## ***3. Continued Discussion of FY'03 CRFM Program.***

John Kranda reported that the status and amount of the FY'03 CRFM budget is still up in the air; the Corps is currently operating under a continuing resolution due to expire January 11. He said he has heard that there might be an Energy and Water bill by February. The districts have submitted their estimated needs to keep everything moving along through mid-January, Kranda said; at this point, though, we still have no idea what we're going to have to work with in FY'03. We're continuing to fund everything on a pay-period-by-pay-period basis, he said. Kranda also distributed copies of the most recent draft of the FY'03 CRFM spreadsheet (Enc. D), noting that it has not been updated since the last SCT meeting due to the uncertainty about the amount and timing of the FY'03 appropriation.

Next, Kim Fodrea and Ken Barnhart discussed BPA's cost-efficiency proposals in the context of the SCT's FY'03 and out-year CRFM priorities. Barnhart said his main message today was that BPA's financial condition is still a major issue; we have been given clear direction from our executives to take a look at everything and find ways to reduce costs across the board. At SCT, our priority is to look for opportunities to improve survival at the lowest cost, said Barnhart. The projects we've been talking about with the SCT – the two removable spillway weirs – clearly offer the potential to reduce BPA's operational costs. Although there isn't universal agreement that we know enough about survival through the RSW, we have gotten some good data at Lower Granite. While we recognize that there may be some risk in advocating fast-track completion of those RSWs, said Barnhart, BPA feels comfortable with those risks, and we hope SCT will agree. We also feel that, given the survival data from Ice Harbor this year, we will be able to implement some reduction in the spill program at Ice Harbor, and an RSW would increase those savings significantly, Barnhart said.

It appears, at this point, that Ice Harbor is the highest-priority project for RSW construction, Barnhart continued; however, the three projects with the worst passage record are Lower Monumental, The Dalles and Bonneville. We've got the corner collector going in at Bonneville, and the guidance device at The Dalles looks as though it will be a real winner, from a survival improvement standpoint. We don't have anything going on at Lower Monumental, however, and we would like the SCT to consider whether or not an RSW would offer survival benefits for that project. The bottom line is that any help this group can offer to the debate over improving Bonneville's financial condition would be appreciated, said Barnhart.

The group discussed the possibility of earmarking \$750,000 to study the feasibility of constructing and installing a removable spillway weir at Ice Harbor in FY'05 (estimated FY'05 cost: \$14 million). Ultimately, the group was unable to reach consensus on the \$750,000 Ice Harbor study in FY'03; it was agreed to defer more substantive discussion of this issue until the December 18 SCT meeting, after FFDRWG has a chance to weigh in at its December 11 meeting.

Kranda noted that the current spreadsheet (Enc. D) also captures the current thinking about potential CRFM line-items through FY'10; this represents the Corps' attempt to list the most important actions over the period covered by the 2000 BiOp, in an effort to spread the cost somewhat evenly over that period, assuming an average CRFM appropriation in the \$90 million range. The group spent a few minutes discussing this information; Kranda noted that, based on the current numbers in this spreadsheet, there may be something of a budget crunch beginning in FY'05 and '06; he added that under this spreadsheet, as it is currently configured, survival improvements at The Dalles would receive the highest priority. He asked the rest of the group to review the out-year spreadsheet and provide any comments they may have to him or at the next SCT meeting.

#### ***4. Next SCT Meeting Date.***

The next System Configuration Team meeting was set for Thursday, January 16. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle, BPA contractor.